



OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 19 Series of 2020

ORGANIZING THE MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT OF THE DEAD AND MISSING (MDM) PERSONS TEAM.

WHEREAS, it is a basic human right that every individual deserves a proper and dignified management of his/her remains regardless of creed, ethnicity, race, and religious beliefs;

WHEREAS, Section 2 (j) of RA No 10121 declares it a policy of the state to ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate change measures are gender-responsive, sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems, and respectful of "human rights";

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared on 11 March 2020 the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) as a pandemic due to the rapid increase of cases of infection throughout the world;

WHEREAS, on 17 March 2020, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Proclamation No. 929, series of 2020 placing the entire Philippines under the State of Calamity for a period of six (6) months unless lifted or extended as the circumstances may warrant;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the NDRRMC has activated its Response Cluster to include the Management of the Dead and Missing;

WHEREAS, as of March 24, 2020, the Department of Health has recorded a total of 606 Patient Under Investigation (PUI), 462 confirmed Covid-19 cases, 6,321 Person Under Monitoring (PUM), and 35 deaths;

WHEREAS, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2020-063 dated 27 March 2020 entitled "Interim Guidelines on the Management of Human Remains for Patient Under Investigation (PUI) and Confirmed Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Cases" provides a standard process on properly managing human remains of Patient Under Investigation (PUI) and Confirmed Covid-19 Cases;

WHEREAS, the management of the dead is one of the most difficult part of disaster management. As such, there is a need to develop a systematic approach in handling dead bodies from their recovery, identification, transfer and final disposal in consideration of the legal requisites, cultural and religious beliefs and norms which will guarantee the respect, for the dignity of the deceased and the rights of their respective families;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that every local government unit (LGU) shall exercise its powers which are essential for the promotion of the general welfare. Within their respective territorial jurisdiction, every LGU shall ensure support and promote the health and safety of its inhabitants;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, VERGEL C. MENESES, MUNICIPAL MAYOR, of the Municipality of Bulakan, Bulacan, by virtue of the power vested in me by the law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Organization and Composition of the Management of the Dead and Missing (MDM) Persons Team:

There shall be an organized Management of the Dead and Missing (MDM) Persons Team that shall be composed of:

Chairperson - Hon. Vergel C. Meneses, Municipal Mayor
Members - Archie Coronel, Local Government Operation Officer
Adoracion Sanchez, Municipal Civil Registrar
Dr. Ma. Elisa Villanueva, Municipal Health Officer
Ma. Victoria Morelos, Municipal Social Welfare & Dev't. Officer
Leonora Hernandez, General Services Officer
PMAJ Moner Orang, PNP Chief
SINP Herminio Sabino, Bureau of Fire Protection
Engr. Ma. Emmie Fernando, Municipal Engineering Officer
Ma. Candelaria Martinez, MDRRMO Designate
Fourteen (14) PUNONG BARANGAYS

SECTION 2. Functions and other Responsibilities - The Municipal MDM Team shall act on the following:

1. Designation and commissioning of reputable funeral parlors and crematorium.
2. Identify suitable burial sites.
3. Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with all designated funeral parlors and crematoriums on the management of human remains for PUIs and COVID-19 cases, and other pertinent provisions of the Circular.
4. Monitor and penalize funeral parlors and crematoriums that refuse to provide logistics and transport of COVID-19 or PUI remains, including but not limited to, refusal to pick-up the remains subject to the policies and guidelines of the Municipality.
5. Ensure funeral companies are to provide transportation and/or housing accommodations for funeral service staff.
6. If necessary, impose a price freeze on funeral services within area of jurisdiction.
7. Coordinate with the Provincial PNP-PCL, BFP SRU, NBI or LHO to provide necessary assistance in the orientation of funeral/mortuary workers of the designated funeral parlors/crematoriums on the universal, standard and transmission-based precautions as provided in 5.1 of the Memo Circular, with the emphasis on the PROPER DRESSING, DOFFING AND DISPOSAL of PPEs and other infectious waste, and other precautionary measures, as deemed necessary. As far as applicable, the PNP-PCL, BFP SRU, NBI or LHO shall conduct the orientation with funeral/mortuary workers of the designated funerals and crematoriums on a face-to-face basis.
8. The Local PNP shall provide perimeter security. Ensure that the transfer of human remains is well coordinated with the local PNP.
9. The LGU shall provide transport, otherwise, the LGU or the next of kin can secure the services of a funeral establishment which will transport the human remains to the burial site/crematorium.
10. For death in referral/ health facility, the attending physician shall issue the death certificate. For death while on Community/Home Quarantine, the Local Health Office shall issue the death certificate. The death must be

- reported to the Municipal Health Officer within twelve (12) hours after death.
11. In case the deceased person was admitted in a referral facility/hospital where he/she is not a resident, the burial, but preferably cremation, shall be done, whenever practicable, in the LGU where the person died.
 12. However, if the bereaved family wishes that the human remains be transported with or without cremation, it should be in accordance with the provisions of Items 4.15 and 5.4.1.2, of DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2020-063 together with the issuance of the appropriate local permits.
 13. A COVID-19 positive Muslim cadaver must be put in a sealed cadaver bag and must be buried within 12 hours in the nearest designated Muslim cemetery around the country, (Item 4.15 of DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2020-063);
 14. Ensure that no remains shall be buried within the twenty-five (25) meter radius of any residential area. The grave shall be at least one and one half (1.5) meters deep and filled well and firmly.
 15. Ensure that no human remains shall be buried in a grave where water table is less than two (2) meter deep from the natural ground surface.
 16. Ensure that no human remains shall be exhumed within five (5) years from the cadaver's burial unless otherwise provided by designated representative of DOH when in his opinion the exhumation of the remains will not endanger the lives of the people. Exhumation must be done in the presence of the LHO.
 17. As reportorial requirements, the Municipal MDM Team shall secure copies of the accomplished death certificate and submit the same to the Provincial MDM Cluster. The Team shall not disclose the number of deaths to the public; only the LCE or the duly designated spokesperson can do so;
 18. All information gathered by the Municipal MDM Team such as identity and other personal details of the deceased shall be respected at all times and remain confidential, unless otherwise provided by law, or in following cases: (1) a written consent was secured from the family of the deceased, (2) For purposes of contact tracing, or (3) there is a need to disclose his name and health status to the public due to his political or social status;
 19. Resolve issues and concerns, otherwise, elevate contentious issues to the Provincial MDM Cluster for resolution. Coordination between municipalities shall be facilitated by the Provincial MDM Cluster.
 20. Be guided accordingly with the DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2020-063;
 21. Perform such other related functions, as deemed necessary.

SECTION 3. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Done this 3rd day of April, 2020 in Bulakan, Bulacan.


VERGEL C. MENESES
Municipal Mayor